

The Gospel of John 6:32-71

I The Bread of Life-Seekers after the Perishing Food (review of 6:22-31)

- A. In verses 22-27a, the people seek for signs, miracles (outward performances) and the food that perishes. The Lord admonishes them in verses 27b to 29 that they should work for the bread unto eternal life, but not by actually working. Instead, they need to believe into Him, i.e., they need to receive Him into themselves. He is the eternal food; He came from the heavens not only to be our Savior—He also came to be our food, our bread of life. Sadly, according to verses 30-31, the people still sought the bread that perishes.
- B. In chapter six there are many unique details concerning the Lord Jesus as the bread of life. Here we have five characteristics of the Lord as our bread. He is the:
- heavenly bread (His source is the heavens; He is from the Father)
 - bread of God (God sent Him and when He comes He is with God)
 - bread of life (the bread *with the nature which is eternal life-zoe*)
 - living bread (the bread with the condition of being living and enlivening us)
 - true bread (the bread that is true, real food—all other foods are merely shadows of Him)

II Food Abiding to Eternal Life - Produced by Being Incarnated (6:32-51a)

- A. The true bread of heaven is not the manna of the Old Testament. (6:32, 34) The true bread is a He, a living person. (6:33, 38 & 51) How can we take the Lord as food, as the bread of life?
- B. Chapter 6 reveals the way, figuratively, to take this person. We are able to take Him in because He was incarnated, slain, resurrected, ascended, made the life-giving Spirit and embodied in the Word.
- C. The Lord has come to man by being incarnated that He might give life to man. (6:35-51)
- The Lord said that He “came down from heaven” (6:33, 38, 41, 42, 50, 51, 58). How? He came down by incarnation. He became a man by partaking of flesh and blood (Heb. 2:14). He came in the flesh and He came as a man.
 - The devil and the evil spirits hate this. The only way to test whether or not a person has an evil spirit is to ask the demon or spirit if he would confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (1John 4:2). Incarnation is the first step that the Lord took in order to become our life.

III Food Abiding to Eternal Life - Produced by Being Slain and by Being Resurrected to Indwell. (6:51b-59)

- A. The Lord’s death was the second step that He took to make Himself available for us to partake of as our food. He died for us, not in an ordinary way, but in a very extraordinary way. He was slain by being crucified on the cross. This death separated His blood from His flesh.
- B. Resurrection is the third step by which the Lord has made Himself available as our life; He alone is the living One in resurrection. Verse 56 implies the matter of resurrection. “*He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him.*” This indicates that the Lord had to be resurrected that He might abide in us as our life and life supply. The Lord could not abide in us before His resurrection. He could only abide in us after His resurrection. This verse 56 indicated that He was going to be resurrected and become the indwelling Spirit.

IV Food Abiding to Eternal Life-Produced by Being Ascended, Becoming the Life-giving Spirit and by Being Embodied and Realized in the Word of Life (6:60-71)

- A. In v. 56 the Lord’s resurrection was implied. In verse 62 His ascension, which followed His resurrection, is clearly mentioned. The Lord’s ascension was the proof that His redemptive work had been completed (Heb. 1:3b)
- B. Christ, as the bread of life, is embodied in the Word of life. The Lord is the Spirit and the Word. The resurrected Christ is the Spirit, the Spirit is the Word, the Word is the Spirit, and the Spirit is the resurrected Lord for us to enjoy. Now we know what He is and where He is. Hence, when we contact the Word in spirit, we are actually contacting the Lord Himself as the living bread. When we receive the Word in spirit, we are receiving Christ Himself as the abundant supply of life. Now, day by day, we are participating in this wonderful, resurrected Christ as our food, life and life-supply. He is the Spirit that gives life and He is the Word of life.
- C. In verse 68 Simon Peter said something very interesting. “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.” This chapter closes with the Word of life, which is the only way to receive the Lord. The problem today boils down to the Word. If you receive the Word, you will have the Spirit within; if you have the Spirit within, then you have Christ as the inner supply of life.
- D. We have seen six steps whereby Christ has made Himself available for us to receive—incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, becoming the life-giving Spirit, and being embodied in the Word of life. The Lord had been incarnated, crucified, resurrected, ascended, has been transfigured from the flesh into the Spirit, and has been embodied in the Word. The Word is the embodiment of the Spirit of the Lord. You cannot say that you do not know how to contact the Lord, for the Lord has been embodied in the Word. He is the Spirit and the Word. If you receive the Word, you will have the Spirit as your enjoyment of Christ.